

1303.6 - Tasmanian Statistical Indicators, Apr 2004

Previous ISSUE Released at 11:30 AM (CANBERRA TIME) 08/04/2004

Summary

Main Features

THE LABOUR FORCE

Trend estimates

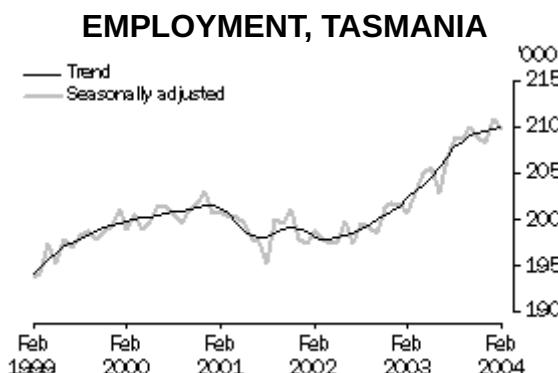
There were an estimated 225,500 persons (based on trend estimates) in the labour force in February 2004 and an estimated 383,500 civilian Tasmanians aged 15 years or more, yielding a labour force participation rate of 58.8%, the same as February 2003. The Australian labour force participation rate for February 2004 was 63.5%, compared to the February 2003 estimate of 64.0% - see **Labour Force, Australia** (cat. no. 6202.0).

For Tasmanian males, the trend estimate of the participation rate was 66.4% in February 2004, compared to the February 2003 estimate of 67.0%. For Tasmanian females, the trend estimate of the participation rate was 51.6% in February 2004, compared to 51.1% in February 2003.

EMPLOYMENT

Trend estimates

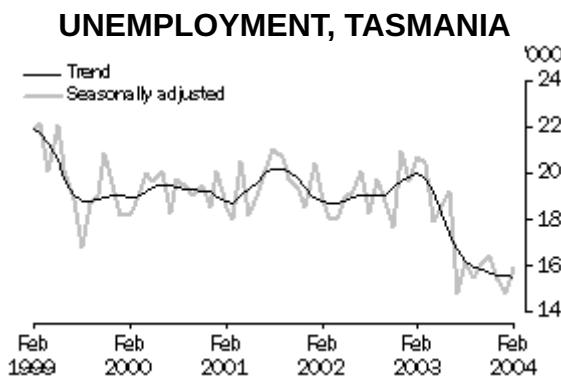
The trend estimate of the total number of employed persons in Tasmania in February 2004 was 210,000, compared to 202,300 in February 2003, an increase of 3.8%. Employment over the same period increased in New South Wales by 0.8%, Victoria by 0.7%, Queensland by 3.0%, South Australia by 0.3% and Western Australia by 1.3%. The increase in the national employment figure over the same period was 1.2% - see **Labour Force, Australia** (cat. no. 6202.0).



UNEMPLOYMENT

Trend estimates

The trend estimate of the number of unemployed persons in Tasmania for February 2004 was 15,500 compared to 20,000 in February 2003. The trend estimate of the unemployment rate for February 2004 was 6.9%, a decrease from the February 2003 figure of 9.0%. The Australian trend estimate of the unemployment rate was 5.8% in February 2004 compared to 6.2% in February 2003 - see **Labour Force, Australia** (cat. no. 6202.0).

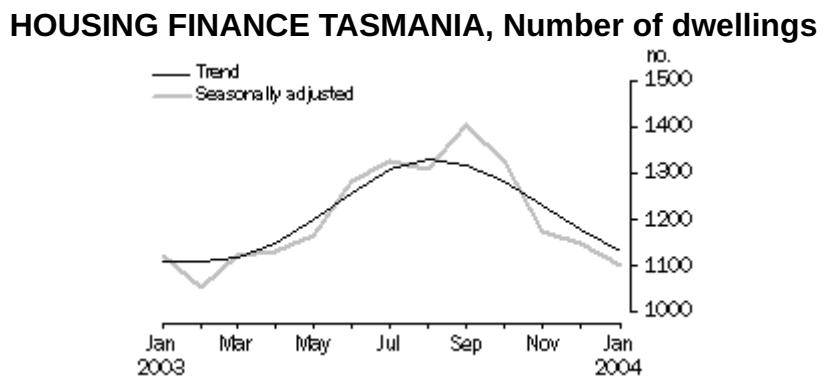


HOUSING FINANCE

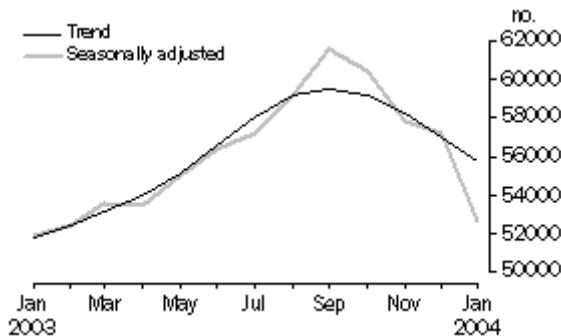
Trend estimates

In trend terms, the number of housing finance commitments in Tasmania for January 2004 was 1,133, a decrease of 4.1% from the previous month. In the same period, the trend estimate for Australia decreased by 2.3%.

The Tasmanian trend estimate increased by 2.3% between January 2003 and January 2004, while the national trend estimate increased by 7.7%. The increases in the number of housing finance commitments over the same period for the other states and territories were New South Wales (8.0%), Victoria (3.1%), Queensland (8.1%), South Australia (11.0%), Western Australia (16.6%), Northern Territory (29.2%). The only state or territory to record a decrease was the Australian Capital Territory (14.8%) - see **Housing Finance for Owner Occupation, Australia** (cat. no. 5609.0).



HOUSING FINANCE AUSTRALIA, Number of dwellings



BUILDING APPROVALS

Original terms

There were 198 dwelling units approved in Tasmania during January 2004, including 176 new houses. This compares to 229 dwelling units approved during December 2003, including 200 new houses. The number of dwelling units approved in January 2004 increased by 39.4% from the 142 approvals recorded in January 2003.

At current prices, the value of total building approved in Tasmania was \$45.9m in January 2004, which was 17.2% below the December 2003 figure of \$55.4m and 4.6% below the January 2003 figure of \$48.1m. Residential building contributed \$33.0m and non-residential building \$12.9m in January 2004 - see **Building Approvals, Australia** (cat. no. 8731.0).

RETAIL

Trend estimates

In trend terms, the estimate of retail turnover in Australia for January 2004 was \$15,809.5m, an 8.8% increase from the January 2003 estimate of \$14,530.9m. In trend terms, the estimate of retail turnover in Tasmania for January 2004 was \$337.1m, a 13.0% increase from the January 2003 estimate of \$298.3m - see **Retail Trade, Australia** (cat. no. 8501.0).

SALES OF NEW MOTOR VEHICLES

Trend estimates

In trend terms, there were 1,533 new motor vehicles sold in Tasmania in January 2004, compared to 1,580 sold in December 2003. The number of new motor vehicles sold in January 2004 increased by 20.1% from the January 2003 figure of 1,276. Passenger vehicles represented 58.8% of all new vehicles sold in Tasmania in January 2004. Nationally, the trend estimate of new motor vehicles sold in January 2004 was 76,437, an increase of 6.4% from the January 2003 figure of 71,871 - see **Sales of New Motor Vehicles, Australia** (Electronic Publication) (cat. no. 9314.0).

CAPITAL EXPENDITURE

Original terms

In original terms, the estimate of total capital expenditure at current prices for Australia in the December quarter 2003 was \$13,778m, an 8.0% increase from the September quarter estimate of \$12,755m. In original terms, the estimate of total capital expenditure at current prices for Tasmania in the December quarter 2003 was \$159m, a 0.6% decrease from the September quarter estimate of \$160m.

For Tasmania, the estimate for expenditure on buildings and structures increased by 17.6% from the September quarter to the December quarter 2003, and the estimate for expenditure on equipment, plant and machinery decreased by 2.8%. The estimates of expenditure by the mining industry increased from \$5m to \$9m, and expenditure by the manufacturing industry and other selected industries each decreased in the December quarter 2003 - see **Private New Capital Expenditure and Expected Expenditure** (cat. no. 5625.0).

LIVESTOCK SLAUGHTERING

Trend estimates

In January 2004, monthly movements of trend estimates showed only slight change in the three livestock slaughtering series: cattle and calves rose by 2.1%; sheep and lambs fell by 1.2%; and pigs fell by 0.4%.

The trend estimate for the number of cattle and calves slaughtered in January 2004 was 25,400, up by 12.9% on the estimate for January 2003 and up by 68.6% on the estimate for January 2002.

The trend estimate for the number of sheep and lambs slaughtered in January 2004 was 68,800, up by 10.5% on the estimate for January 2003 and up by 38.3% on the estimate for January 2002.

The trend estimate for the number of pigs slaughtered in January 2004 was 3,900, down by 7.5% on the estimate for January 2003 and down by 9.7% on the estimate for January 2002.

OVERSEAS TRADE

The value of Tasmania's exports for the month of January 2004 was \$168m, an increase of 8% on the month of December 2003. Australia's exports for January 2004 totalled \$7,902m.

Tasmania's major export destinations for the month of January 2004 were Japan (\$44.2m), Korea (\$23.5m) and Hong Kong (\$17.8m). Major commodity groups exported for the month were non-ferrous metals (\$50.1m), fish, crustaceans and molluscs (\$10.9m) and metallic ores and metal scrap (\$8.9m).

CONSUMER PRICE INDEX

The Consumer Price Index (All groups) for Hobart increased by 0.6% in the December quarter of 2003. Sydney recorded the largest increase (0.8%) while Melbourne recorded the lowest (0.2%). The weighted average of the eight capital cities increased by 0.5%.

About this Release

ABOUT THIS RELEASE

Previously: Monthly Summary of Statistics, Tasmania (ISSN: 0314-20940)
Includes: 1306.6 and 8301.6

Contains tables dealing with: population and vital statistics, employment and unemployment, wages and prices, production statistics, building, finance, trade, retail sales, tourism and motor vehicle registrations.

© Commonwealth of Australia

All data and other material produced by the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) constitutes Commonwealth copyright administered by the ABS. The ABS reserves the right to set out the terms and conditions for the use of such material. Unless otherwise noted, all material on this website - except the ABS logo, the Commonwealth Coat of Arms, and any material protected by a trade mark - is licensed under a Creative Commons Attribution 2.5 Australia licence